



Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

August 2006



In August 2006, approximately 38 percent of Rhode Island's unemployed workers were eligible to collect Unemployment Insurance benefits. Numbering 12,313 people, these "insured unemployed" accounted for 2.2 percent of the state's total employed (unadjusted). Nearly 21 percent (2,526) of the Ocean State's insured unemployed faced long-term unemployment, defined as collecting unemployment benefits for more than fourteen weeks.

Twenty-seven percent (3,327) of the people receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits were between the ages of 45 and 54, while an additional 27 percent (3,270) were 35 to 44 years old.

Concentrations of long-term unemployment were highest among workers over 60 years of age, due in part to the difficulties workers face in finding new jobs as they grow older. For example, almost 26 percent of all insured unemployed workers 60 years and older had been collecting benefits for at least fourteen weeks, whereas 19 percent of those under 22 years of age and 20 percent of 22 to 24 year olds were considered long-term unemployed.

In August, approximately 43 percent (5,336) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits had just a high school diploma. An additional 1,713 people (13.9%) had less than a high school diploma, while 17.9 percent (2,202) of the insured unemployed had at least a bachelor's degree. Roughly 25 percent of insured unemployed workers with less than a high school diploma had been collecting benefits for a minimum of fourteen weeks, while 20 percent of those with at least a Bachelor's degree were also considered long-term unemployed.

On an industry basis, 16 percent (1,912) of the state's insured unemployed workers came from the Manufacturing sector. There were also 1,640 individuals with an attachment to the Accommodations and Food Services sector, accounting for 13.3 percent of all insured unemployed workers. An additional 11 percent (1,296) of those collecting Unemployment Insurance benefits in August had worked in the Health Care & Social Assistance sector. Large numbers of insured unemployed were also reported in Transportation & Warehousing (1,161), Retail Trade (1,081) and Administrative & Waste Services (852).

Those previously employed in Office & Administrative occupations accounted for 14.3 percent (1,762) of the state's insured unemployed. A large number of workers previously employed in Transportation & Material Moving (1,502), Production (1,480) and Food Preparation & Serving Related (1,324) occupations also collected Unemployment Insurance benefits in August. Numerous occupational groups reported concentrations of long-term unemployment above the state average, including Legal (38.8%), Business & Financial Operations (33.9%), Sales & Related (29.4%) and Installation, Maintenance & Repair (28.5%).

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed, August 2006

	Total	Long-Term	Percent Long-Term
Total	12,313	2,526	20.5%
Male	4,822	1,219	25.3%
Female	7,491	1,307	17.4%
Age	12,313	2,526	20.5%
Under 22	310	59	19.0%
22 - 24	513	101	19.7%
25 - 34	2,219	472	21.3%
35 - 44	3,270	663	20.3%
45 - 54	3,327	638	19.2%
55 - 59	1,180	212	18.0%
60 - 64	796	171	21.5%
65 or over	698	210	30.1%
Education	12,313	2,526	20.5%
Less than 9th Grade	509	128	25.1%
9th to 12th, no diploma	1,204	296	24.6%
High School Graduate	5,336	1,073	20.1%
Some College	2,157	509	23.6%
Bachelor's Degree	1,312	258	19.7%
Beyond Bachelor's	890	177	19.9%
Selected Industries	12,313	2,526	20.5%
Construction	701	177	25.2%
Manufacturing	1,912	550	28.8%
Wholesale Trade	363	130	35.8%
Retail Trade	1,081	308	28.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	1,161	47	4.0%
Information	267	85	31.8%
Finance & Insurance	616	217	35.2%
Real Estate	236	62	26.3%
Professional & Tech. Services	453	121	26.7%
Administrative & Waste Services	852	163	19.1%
Educational Services	571	43	7.5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,296	255	19.7%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	176	22	12.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	1,640	138	8.4%
Other Services	384	123	32.0%
Public Administration	223	11	4.9%
Selected Occupations	12,313	2,526	20.5%
Business & Financial Operations	416	141	33.9%
Computer & Mathematical	122	31	25.4%
Architecture & Engineering	94	25	26.6%
Life, Physical & Social Science	50	13	26.0%
Community & Social Services	154	27	17.5%
Legal	49	19	38.8%
Education, Training & Library	722	29	4.0%
Arts, Design, Ent., Sports & Media	207	49	23.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	177	50	28.2%
Healthcare Support	223	58	26.0%
Protective Service	249	32	12.9%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,324	101	7.6%
Bldg. & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	137	35	25.5%
Personal Care & Service	252	23	9.1%
Sales & Related	761	224	29.4%
Office & Administrative Support	1,762	499	28.3%
Construction & Extraction	433	97	22.4%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	372	106	28.5%
Production	1,480	376	25.4%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,502	155	10.3%